

REPORT
ON
NATIVE PAPERS
FOR THE
Week ending the 1st February 1896.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto	" 5,000	26th January 1896.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 20,000	25th ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	"	28th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	24th ditto.	
5	"Kumari Patrika" ...	Ditto	"	23rd and 30th January 1896.	
6	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	"	25th ditto.	
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	22nd ditto.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	24th ditto.	
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	" 3,000	25th ditto.	
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	" 800	13th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	" 200		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika" ...	Ditto	" 200	23rd and 26th to 29th January 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	" 500	27th and 29th January 1896.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	" 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	" 1,000	23rd, 24th, 28th, 29th and 30th January 1896.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	" 800	23rd January 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 9,000	20th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	"		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	"	18th, 19th and 22nd January 1896.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Calcutta	"	22nd January 1896.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto	About 400	23rd January 1896.	
2	"General and Gauharisafi" ...	Ditto	" 300	16th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	" 500		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	" 298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	350 to 400	21st January 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	500	26th ditto.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	"	26th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	754	24th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna ...	350		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	280	22nd January 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200	24th ditto.	
3	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	24th ditto.	
URIYA.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
ORISSA DIVISION.					
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	.....	
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....	.....	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412		
HINDI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
PATNA DIVISION.					
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000	18th January 1896.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	20th January 1896.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.					
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....	
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283	22nd January 1896.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300		
HINDI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150	.....	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
DACCA DIVISION.					
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	21st January 1896.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450	26th ditto.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	250	25th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	500	23rd and 30th January 1896.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ... BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	Dacca ... CHITTAGONG DIVISION.	500	20th and 27th January 1896.	
1	"Tripura Prakash" ... <i>Weekly.</i>	Comilla ...	.....	
1	"Sansodhini" ... BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	Chittagong ... ASSAM.	120		
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hitavadi* of the 24th January is sorry that in return for Swat and Bajour the English Government has made over to the Amir Kafirstan, a tract inhabited by an ancient

HITAVADI,
Jan. 24th, 1896.

Kafirstan under the Amir. race, whose religion is akin to Hinduism, and whose prowess and truthfulness are famous in history. This bargain has been far more advantageous to the Amir than to the English Government. The Amir had little control over Bajour, and its occupation has cost the English Government a war. The English Government has acquired Swat and Bajour in the hope of being able, by means of their occupation, to repel a Russian invasion. For this prospective advantage it has lost its prestige as well as the confidence of the frontier tribes by making over Kafirstan to the Amir. It is not to be expected that the people of Swat and Bajour will be able to repel a Russian invasion, when the Amir and the whole body of English troops will fail to do so. Nor can their allegiance be implicitly relied upon, considering that they are Afghans and have been deprived by the English of their favourite ruler. Could not the Kafirs have helped the English as effectually in repelling a Russian invasion as the people of Swat and Bajour?

The Amir has occupied Kafirstan and threatens to convert its inhabitants to Muhammadanism at the point of the sword. In 1866, when a body of Musalman troops invaded a village of the Kafirs and defeated the villagers, the latter, men, women and children, immolated themselves on a vast funeral pyre to save their religion and their honour. When the victorious Musalman troops entered the village, they found nothing but desolation round them. One trembles to think of the fate of these Kafirs. They will now probably disappear from the face of the earth. It is hoped that the English Government will yet repair its mistake and insist upon the restoration of Kafirstan as a condition upon which permission can be given to the Amir to keep an envoy in England.

2. The *Sanjivani* of the 25th January writes as follows on the attitude of the British Government towards the Kafirs in the war which is being waged against them by the Amir of Afghanistan:—

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 25th, 1896.

The English Government and the Kafirs.

The English Government should be held responsible for the loss of the independence of this free people and for the destruction of their ancient monuments by the army of the Amir of Afghanistan. Dr. Leitner, who is a friend of the Musalmans and a personal friend of the Amir, with whom he keeps a regular correspondence, plainly says that, by virtue of the recent treaty made between the Amir and the British Government, the latter has allowed the former to take possession of Kafirstan, in consideration of his allowing it to establish its influence in Swat and Bajour. This is an instance of treachery almost without a parallel in the history of humanity. The Kafirs have, with their wonted simplicity, always depended upon the British Government for protection, but the British Government, in order to serve a selfish purpose, has betrayed them into the hands of the Amir and has left them to the tender mercies of the Afghan people.

It is, then, the selfishness of the British Government that has made the Kafirs a victim to the Amir of Afghanistan, and its conduct has cast a stigma on its fair fame—a stigma which it ought to do everything in its power to wipe out. The Amir of Afghanistan asked the British Government to allow an ambassador from his Court to reside in England as his recognised representative. The British Government can grant this request of the Amir on the condition that he will not interfere with the independence of the Kafirs.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 21st January complains that *badmashes* have become rampant in the villages Ara and Sankipura, in the Netrakona subdivision of the Mymensingh district. Though the men commit all sorts of oppression on the villagers, none dare inform the police against them for fear of being beaten and having their

CHARU MIHIR,
Jan. 21st, 1896.

Badmashes in the Netrakona subdivision of the Mymensingh district.

houses burnt down by them. A *chaukidar* was one night severely beaten by some of these *badmashes*. Theft, too, has become rife in the villages. It is hoped that the Deputy Magistrate of Netrakona will take steps to put down the *badmashes*.

VIKRAMPUR,
Jan. 23rd, 1896.

4. The *Vikrampur* of the 23rd January draws the attention of the *Vikrampur* police, in the *Munshiganj* subdivision of the *Dacca* district, to the fact that wicked people burn dead bodies near tanks whose water is used for drinking purposes. The practice is most prevalent in the *Srinagar* thana, where it is largely indulged in in spite of the remonstrances of the villagers. Considering the sufferings of the *mufassal* people in this season from scarcity of good drinking-water, the village *chaukidars* and the local police should take every care that the water of the few tanks which supply drinking-water are not thus polluted. Dead bodies should be ordered to be burnt near ponds, tanks and *bils* whose water is unfit for drinking and other domestic purposes.

Pollution of tank water in the *Vikrampur* pargana of the *Dacca* district.

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 23rd, 1896.

5. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 23rd January says that the number of *badmashes* in *Calcutta* is daily increasing, owing to the negligence of the police. A few days ago a shopkeeper of *Barabazar* was sitting in his shop with a purse before him, when two *badmashes* engaged themselves in a mock fight in front of his shop, in order to divert his attention, and when he was thus thrown off his guard, an accomplice of the *badmashes* ran off with the purse. A *Musalman badmash* also ran off some days ago with a number of currency notes. Things like these occur every day at *Barabazar*.

Badmashes at *Barabazar*.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 24th, 1896.

6. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th January is sorry that Government has transferred *Babu Sitaram Chatterji* from *Purnea* for no other fault than that he sued *Mr. Cox*, the Local District Superintendent of Police, for damages for assault.

Transfer of *Babu Sitaram Chatterji* from *Purnea*.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 25th, 1896.

7. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 25th January writes that there have been committed four dacoities, attended with murder, within a year, in the *Fulpur* thana, in the *Mymensingh* district. Very lately the dacoits murdered and robbed one *Gaur Dasi*, living close to the police-station. In the *Bahadurpur* catcherry in the same district, two daring thefts have been committed. In all these cases, however, the police has failed to trace the offenders.

Daring thefts and dacoities in the *mufassal*.

Another correspondent of the same paper writes that on the 17th January last, a daring theft was committed in the house of *Babu Ramgopal Banerji*, of *Goswami Mulpara*, a village in the *Hooghly* district. Of late there has been a recrudescence of theft in that and the neighbouring villages. The local police is inefficient, and has not so far been able to trace the offenders in any case.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Jan. 25th, 1896.

8. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 25th January writes as follows:—
The police and the *Musalman* press.

Our articles on the *Armenian* affair seem to have given offence in certain quarters, for enquiries are being made regarding them, and our old acquaintance, the police, has been set upon us. We do not, however, feel frightened by all this. When the first collision between the *Armenians* and the *Sultan* took place, and we commenced our series entitled "The invisible volcano," we knew perfectly well that the detective police would follow us like a shadow. But, brother detective, known as you are to us, why are you making your enquiries so privately? Why don't you come to us openly and publicly? We can then explain matters to you in two words. The country we live in is *Bengal* and not *Armenia*; there are no secret associations here endeavouring to upset the Government. Of that you can rest assured. But though you can make the *Musalman* bear in silence the severest corporeal injury and the heaviest taxation, beware of interfering with his religion. Interference with his religion will drive him out of his senses, and lead him, weak in body though he be, to the commission of the most desperate acts. The *Musalmans* of *Bengal* have no secret associations; they are concerting no measures to rise against the ruling power. Whatever they do, they will do openly and publicly. You, our friend detective, need not, therefore, go about like a ghost from door to door in the chill and darkness of these winter nights.

Can any one tell us the meaning of the word 'rebel,' and what constitutes a 'rebel'? Are the Musalmans of Bengal, who are saying a few words on behalf of their spiritual guide, the Sultan, whom all Europe is treating with injustice, rebels, or rather the Armenians who offered armed opposition to the Sultan's tax-gatherer, massacred the Sultan's officers, spread sedition in Turkish cities, not excepting Constantinople, and last of all massacred maulvis in the capital? Everybody must admit that the Indian Musalman is a loyal subject of Her Majesty. In our humble opinion that man is a rebel and an enemy to British rule who wounds the feelings of these loyal subjects. And Mr. Gladstone has done that in connection with incidents which he thought had happened in Armenia, and which had no bearing upon either England or India. Mr. Gladstone, you must be aware that sixty millions of Indian Musalmans (double the entire population of Great Britain and Ireland) look upon the Sultan as their *Caliph*, i.e., the Prophet's representative on earth, and that in the course of the *Juma namaz*, every Friday, every one of these Musalmans prays for the continuance of the Sultan's rule on earth. Any unjust attack on the Sultan, therefore, wounds the feelings of these sixty millions of Indian Musalmans. Why are you, Mr. Gladstone, breaking so many hearts by espousing the cause of some Christian foreigners, or on account of some old grudge against the Sultan? Her Majesty pledged herself to the protection of every religion professed by any class of her subjects in her Indian dominions. Do you not, therefore, deserve to be called the first among rebels when you make use of the filthiest language in respect of the leader of a religion which Her Majesty is pledged to protect? And do you suppose that these sixty millions of Indian Musalmans possess no heart or feeling, that they have no religious susceptibilities? Do you not know that these Musalmans are as much pained by insults offered to the Sultan as you seem to be by the imaginary sufferings of the Armenians? You have the gift of eloquence, and possess the art of making truth appear like falsehood, and falsehood appear like truth. But do you, therefore, suppose that the sixty millions of Indian Musalmans have no support to fall back upon? Can they not make their cries in the silence of the night heard by the Omnipotent? The same Merciful God who raised up and destroyed the Greek, the Roman and the Persian empires, must hear the wails of these devoted creatures. Once more we ask you, Mr. Gladstone, to put aside your cloak of philanthropy. The world has grown weary of falsehood and hypocrisy. Neither has the fruit of your false sympathy with the Armenians been long in coming. It was you who incited the Armenians to rebellion, and thousands of them have been killed in the disturbances which followed. Know that your philanthropy will have to answer for the blood of these unfortunate creatures.

9. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 26th January reports that a few days ago there was a dacoity in Kaikala, a village in the Hooghly district. There have also been dacoities in two of the adjoining villages, Kirtinagar and Bhajpur. An inquiry should be made into this recrudescence of dacoity in the Hooghly district.

CHINSURA VARTAVAHA,
Jan. 26th, 1896.

Theft has also become very much frequent of late in the Hooghly district. On the 20th instant last there was a daring theft committed in an *akhra* in Khamarpara, a village in the Hooghly district. The thieves robbed the idols of their ornaments and the *mahant* of all his belongings. A few days ago, a theft was committed in broad daylight in the house of one Ramani Goalini near the police outpost in Sahaganj in the same district. On the 17th January last, a daring theft was committed in the house of one Babu Ram Gopal Bandyopadhyaya of Goswami Mulpara, under the jurisdiction of the Polba thana. Is the police sound asleep?

10. The *Hitaishi* of the 28th January draws the attention of the municipal authorities and of the Purity Society to the prevalence of *badmashism* in the Calcutta bathing ghats, most frequented by native ladies. In these ghats a number of young men are found singing lewd songs, cutting obscene jokes at the female bathers, and otherwise annoying and molesting them. These *badmashes* do not even scruple to trespass into the ghats exclusively set apart for female bathers, and ill-treat those who may venture to oppose their

HITAISHI,
Jan. 28th, 1896.

Badmashes in the Calcutta bathing ghats.

intrusion. The Kasi Mitter's ghat is a favourite resort of these *badmashes*. Formerly the Sub-Registrar of the Kasi Mitter's burning ghat used to hold his office in one of the front rooms in the ghat. This stood in the way of the *badmashes* carrying on their practice of molesting female bathers, and so they reported against the Sub-Registrar, falsely accusing him of molesting those bathers. The Sub-Registrar has therefore had to remove his office to one of the inside rooms, the field being thus left in full possession of the *badmashes* and the Sub-registrar prevented from doing his work properly. The dead bodies of those who commit suicide or of those who are murdered are now left at the *ghat*, and the Sub-registrar cannot find out those who may bring and leave them there.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Jan. 23rd, 1896

11. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 23rd January is sorry that the European who killed a native sailor, named Asgher Ali, in Calcutta, was acquitted by the jury, although his guilt was clearly proved by the police investigation. Five months ago a similar thing took place in Madras. Although we are constantly informing Government of such cruel deeds, it pays no heed to our complaints. The Europeans seem to be above the law. The Government should awake from its sleep, or the result will be very bad.

VIKRAMPUR,
Jan. 23rd, 1896.

12. Referring to Mr. Forbes' circular to the Deputy Magistrates in his Division, instructing them to let off juvenile offenders with whipping, the *Vikrampur* of the 23rd January says that in their anxiety to keep the native population in check, the executive officers do not stop to consider whether it is advisable for them to interfere with the administration of justice. A diminution of the jail population means a decrease of the jail expenditure of Government, and Mr. Forbes seems to have issued the order, with a desire to curtail that expenditure. But in view of Babu Parvati Charan Rai's recent disclosures, the executive should in sheer shame refrain, at least for some time, from interfering with the administration of criminal justice.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 23rd, 1896.

13. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 23rd January, should see that the touring of judicial officers does not prove a source of inconvenience and hardship to litigants. The touring rules and regulations in force during the rule of Sir Steuart Bayley, should be re-enforced. The number of tours to be regularly made by a judicial officer can be safely reduced, and it will be enough if he only goes out from time to time touring through the district or subdivision in his charge. Much time is not likely to be taken in so doing. There is no subdivision, for instance, which cannot be toured through in fifteen days; and touring or no touring, litigants should not be compelled, as at present, to follow the Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates out touring. It will be a great relief to these men if the policy of Sir Steuart Bayley is followed, that is, if touring Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates are prevented from trying cases other than those in which the parties live close by the place where they may happen to put up for the time being in course of their tour. The best thing to do, however, will be to prevent Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates from trying cases altogether when out touring. It will be doing great injustice to litigants if this course is not adopted so long as the judicial and executive branches of the administration are not separated from each other. Years ago, it was a practice with some Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates to harass accused persons of rank and position by making the latter follow them like camp followers. Those days, however, are gone, and the touring rules of Sir Steuart Bayley show that the Government is not likely to countenance such an unjust and unlawful practice as that. Sir Charles Elliott, however, upset Sir Steuart Bayley's system, and it is not known what was in his mind. But if the public are not much mistaken in their estimate of the new Lieutenant-Governor, they can expect him to introduce a better order of things in this respect. The advice of officials like Mr. Westmacott should not be followed. He took Babu Nabin Chandra Sen to task because, as Sub-Divisional Office. of Ranaghat, he did not compel litigants to follow him in

his tours. Sir Charles Elliott supported Mr. Westmacott, but the latter is not likely to find favour with Sir Alexander Mackenzie. The touring rules of Sir Charles Elliott caused great inconvenience and hardship, not only to litigants, but also to the touring officials, and Commissioners like Messrs. Nolan and Oldham have found fault with them. It is true that Sir Charles Elliott lightly treated their objections, but reason and common sense were unmistakably on their side.

14. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th January has heard that Babu Matilal Haldar, First Munsif of Alipore, has been at that station for more than four years. Before he came to Alipore he was for several years at Baripore, in the same district. What is the reason of this special favour to him? To allow a particular officer to remain at a good place for a long time is to do injustice to other deserving officers. The Munsif is also said not to behave well towards pleaders and parties. It is hoped that he will now mend his ways.

15. The same paper complains that the Deputy Magistrate, Mr. C. N. Banerji, has been allowed to remain unduly long at Howrah. It is hard to understand the principles on which Government makes transfers.

16. The same paper says that the distribution of work in the Calcutta Small Cause Court is so badly made, that some Judges finish their day's work before noon, while others can hardly overtake their work. It is said that Mr. K. M. Chatterji had to return home at noon several days for want of work. Will not the Bengal Government look to the matter?

17. The *Banganivasi* of the 26th January observes that Babu Matilal Haldar, First Munsif of Alipore, does not conduct himself courteously towards the pleaders and mukhtars of his court. It is a matter of regret that in a place like Alipore, a judicial officer should be allowed to conduct himself in this way. Babu Matilal Haldar has evidently a patron at his back. How otherwise could he get himself almost permanently settled at Alipore? He has been there for five years.

18. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 26th January considers it a great injustice to the zamindars of the Dacca district that their *batwara* Deputy Collector, who is paid wholly by them, should be employed by Government in land acquisition and settlement work also. The duties imposed upon the Deputy Collector by Government, prevent that officer from devoting his whole time to *batwara* work, which is therefore going on at a very slow rate.

19. Great oppression, says the same paper, is committed under the Cess Act, by requiring people, who have no connection with a mahal, to submit returns for the same. If the man so required to submit returns does not submit them, he is subjected to a daily fine, which is realisable by arrest, as well as by sale of property. One can of course produce exemption from the necessity of furnishing returns by submitting a petition disclaiming any interest in the mahal. But in order to make such a petition he must come to the sadar, engage a mukhtar, and pay the price of the necessary stamps for the mukhtarnama and petition. It is easy to guess what all this trouble and expense would mean in the case of a poor widow who was served with a notice in respect of a mahal with which she had no connection whatever. Many talukdars, the writer is well aware, dishonestly avoid submitting returns. Let such men be punished for their dishonesty by being subjected to fine realisable by the sale of their property, in respect of which returns are not submitted, but realisation of fine by the sale of any other property is certainly unjust. And in order to save trouble and expense to those who disclaim any interest in the estate for which they are required to submit returns, it should be provided that denial would be considered sufficient if it is made in writing on the back of the notice. It is a great injustice that parties who have no connection with a defaulting estate should be made to incur expense in order merely to inform the authorities of the fact.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 24th, 1896.

HITAVADI.

HITAVADI.

BANGANIVASI,
Jan. 26th, 1896.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Jan. 26th, 1896.

DACCA PRAKASH.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 24th, 1896.

(d)—Education.

20. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 24th January says that few graduates of the University have been able to make a name in Literature or Science, and the system of education introduced by the University is to blame for this. Those who select text-books for the University examinations show no discrimination in the performance of their work. A comparison between the text-books for the Entrance Examination and those for the First Arts Examination, will make this clear. In the Entrance Examination there is only one text-book in English and one in Sanskrit, both consisting of a small number of easy extracts in prose and verse. For the First Arts Examination, however, not less than six English books have to be read, some of which are difficult enough to puzzle the professors themselves. In Sanskrit there are either Raghuvansa and the stiff Bhatti, or the former only. In Mathematics there are five subjects, against three in the Entrance Examination, two of them, Trigonometry and Conic Sections being quite new to the students. The text-books in Science are incomparably harder than the scientific primers which have to be read for the Entrance Examination. There are besides two books in History, and there is Logic, which also is a new subject. The University authorities have perhaps an impression that the more numerous the subjects the students read, the more learned they will become. Under this impression they fix so many as six or seven different subjects for each examination. The result is that a graduate becomes a Jack of all trades, but master of none. This practice of the University is opposed to the advice of Lord Ripon that it is better to know a few things thoroughly, than to know many things superficially, and to the practice pursued in the toils of this country where students devote themselves entirely to the study of a single subject.

HITAVADI.

21. The same paper is sorry that of the Fellows of the Calcutta University appointed this year the majority are Government officers. It is an advantage to Government that the majority of the Fellows should be its officers, but to the public, this is very disadvantageous. This system of appointing Government officers as Fellows is objectionable in itself, and it is all the more objectionable because clerks and men of imperfect education are appointed in preference to properly educated men. This year Shams-ul-ulma Atahar Rahman, Head Assistant in the Sanitary Commissioner's office, under the Government of India, has been elected a Fellow of the University. If a Government officer was wanted, were there not Babus Nilkantha Majumdar and Rajendra Chandra Sastri, both Premchand Roychand scholars and respectable Government officers? If a Musalman was wanted, was there not Mr. Abdul Rahim, who took the first place in his year in English in the M. A. Examination and is now practising as a Barrister with great success? Mr. Atahar Rahman has to remain for eight months in the year at Simla; how will he do his work as a Fellow during that time?

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 25th, 1896.

Some appointments in the Education Department.

22. The *Sanjivani* of the 25th January finds fault with the arrangement made by the Director of Public Instruction, by virtue of which Babu Benimadhav De, Assistant Inspector of Schools Burdwan Circle, will, after his return from furlough, become the Head-Master of the Chittagong School, while the Head Master, Babu Abinash Chandra Chatterji, will most probably be appointed to Beni Babu's post. It will go hard with Beni Babu to serve as a school master in his declining years in a distant part of the country. Is not Sir Alfred satisfied with his work? As to Abinash Babu, is he tired of a sedentary occupation, and does he think that an Assistant Inspectorship will give him more leisure and opportunity to exercise greater influence and power? He must know, however, that the road to fortune is not strewn with roses.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 25th, 1896.

Compulsion in connection with the Eden Hindu Hostel.

23. The *Bangavasi* of the 25th January understands that Hindu students having no guardians in Calcutta will be compelled to live in the Eden Hindu Hostel. The writer would have had no objection to this if in the Eden Hindu Hostel caste distinctions had been observed as closely as they are, for instance, in the students' boarding house attached to the Agra College. In the Eden Hindu Hostel caste distinctions are not properly observed, and orthodox Hindu students will naturally object to live there.

24. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 26th January writes as follows:—

DACCA PRAKASH,
Jan. 26th, 1896.

The Dacca Survey School. Various damaging rumours regarding the working of the Dacca Survey School are afloat, and though one might not feel inclined to believe all these rumours, an enquiry ought to be made into every one of them. The extraordinary powers vested in the head-masters of survey schools are certainly liable to abuse. It is a wonder that the authorities who exercise such caution in regard to the examinations of the vernacular and middle schools, should leave the holding of the Survey, Medical and Normal school examinations entirely to the head-masters of those institutions. Considering that the passing of the latter examinations gives the candidates a passport to service, it will be no wonder if the candidates should try to influence their respective head-masters, with whom rest the sole power of declaring them as passed or plucked. It is entirely the fault of the authorities that this state of things has been allowed to continue so long. And it is high time that it was put a stop to by the appointment of boards of examiners consisting of men of position in the respective professions.

Sir Alfred Croft recently came on a visit to this town in company with a European gentleman of the Surveyor-General's office. He examined the boys, but the result of his examination is not yet known.

25. The Director of Public Instruction, observes the *Dacca Gazette* of the 27th January, recently paid a visit to Dacca. He did not, however, inspect a single private school or college. Like Cæsar he came and saw and conquered. The *Dacca Prakash* says that when the question of inspecting the private schools and colleges was raised, Sir Alfred Croft observed, with special reference to the Jagannath College and the Jubilee School, that no amount of inspection could do any good to an institution in which teachers were, without sufficient reason, constantly changed. The Director inspected only the Dacca College and the Eden Female School. It is said that he came to Dacca specially with the purpose of inquiring into the truth of certain allegations made against the management of the local survey school. As regards the Eden Female School, the school committee as well as Mr. Luttmann-Johnson maintains that there is no necessity of keeping a European Lady Superintendent. But Sir Alfred Croft is not willing to act so ungallantly towards a European lady as to deprive her of a comfortable berth.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Jan. 27th, 1896.

26. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 28th January says that when Mr. Prothero's name was announced as Head-Examiner in History for the present year's Entrance Examination, it was pointed out that as he had written a historical catechism, it was not proper to appoint him as an examiner, but Mr. Prothero replied that he had stopped the sale of his book. But the *Sanjivani* newspaper has procured copies of it from the bazar. What do the University authorities say to this?

SULABH DAINIK,
Jan. 28th, 1896.

It has been also wrong of the University to appoint Mr. P. K. Roy as Head-Examiner in Logic in the F. A. Examination, when Babu Syama Charan Ganguli, who is Mr. P. M. Roy's senior in the service, and has exposed errors in Mr. Roy's work on logic, is an examiner in that subject.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

27. The *Charu Mihir* of the 21st January has the following:—

The Mymensingh Municipality. 1. Mr. Earle, District Magistrate of Mymensingh, was not satisfied with the collections of the Mymensingh Municipality, though 95 per cent. of the rates were realised last year and only 5 per cent. remained unrealised. He called this a disgraceful state of things. Mr. Earle is always sharply criticising the actions of his subordinates, but his censure is often unmerited. Can Mr. Earle say whether Government succeeds in realising even 95 per cent. of the land revenue in spite of the sunset law?

CHARU MIHIR,
Jan. 21st, 1896.

2. About six thousand rupees a year must be expended to meet the cost of working the water-works which have been recently opened in Mymensingh town. The water-rate of 3 to 4 per cent. which has been imposed will not, however, yield such a large sum. The municipal authorities, therefore, proposed

to devote a part of their general fund to the maintenance of the water-works. But this has been disallowed both by the District Magistrate and by the Divisional Commissioner, who have given the Municipal Commissioners the option of closing the water-works or meeting the cost of their maintenance by an increased water-rate. In the course of his visit to Mymensingh, Mr. Luttmann-Johnson strictly enjoined the Chairman of the Municipality not to spend any part of the general fund on the water-works. He knows perfectly well that closing of the water-works is now out of the question, and that the result of his order will be an enhancement of the water-rate. But should he not have considered how hard must it be for poor municipal rate-payers to pay more than a four per cent. water-rate, when highly paid Civilians do not find it quite convenient to pay an income-tax at a smaller rate?

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 22nd, 1896.

28. The *Sahachar* of the 22nd January writes as follows:—

Babu Nilambar Mukerji's appointment to the Vice-Chairmanship.

Under Sir Charles Elliott the Bengalis asked for bread but were fed with stone. But with the accession of Sir Alexander Mackenzie to the Bengal *musnud* better days seem to be dawning upon the province. A noble-minded man and a real well-wisher of the the Bengalis as he is, Sir Alexander's first act of justice to them was the appointment of Mr. K. M. Chatterji to the officiating second judgeship of the Calcutta Small Cause Court. His next claim to the gratitude of the Bengalis has been the appointment of Babu Nilambar Mukerji to the Vice-Chairmanship of the Calcutta Municipality. Nilambar Babu's career in Cashmere is a sufficient proof that he was by far the worthiest and best qualified candidate for the post, and even all impartial Muhammadans will admit this. The case, indeed, would have been different if a Muhammadan gentleman of Syed Abdul Jubbar's position and abilities had stood for the post. As it is, it is hoped that the Muhammadan community will join with the Hindus in expressing satisfaction at the appointment of Nilambar Babu. The writer can assure them that they will have little cause for complaint against the appointment, for Babu Nilambar is a large-hearted man, and will look upon both the Hindu and the the Musalman rate-payers as his brothers, and will know very well how to conduct himself in a breach between brothers.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie has earned the blessing and gratitude of the Calcutta public by sanctioning the appointment. It is to be hoped that he will in this way gradually undo the evil effects of the policy which was inaugurated by his predecessor, and make the people of Bengal feel that living under him is living in a *regimé* which has its parallel only in the rule of King Ram, under whom people had no wants and knew no woe.

SULABH DAINIK,
Jan. 24th, 1896.

29. It will be remembered, says the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 24th January,

The Nadia municipal affair.

that the Magistrate of Nadia having without sufficient cause censured the Commissioners of the local Municipality, the latter resigned in a body. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* now says that Sir Alexander Mackenzie has asked the Magistrate to express regret for his conduct, and that His Honour has, at the same time, requested the Municipal Commissioners to withdraw their resignation. Considering the uprightness and independence that Sir Alexander Mackenzie is already showing, it is very likely that the civilians will soon have to forget Sir Charles Elliott's *regimé*.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 25th, 1896.

30. The Commissioners of the Nadia Municipality, observes the *Sanjivani*

Sir Alexander Mackenzie and the Nadia municipal affair.

of the 25th January, resigned in a body by way of protesting against certain unjust strictures passed on them by the District Magistrate. The Magistrate requested them to withdraw their resignation, but they declined to do so if he did not himself withdraw his own strictures. The Magistrate did not withdraw his strictures, and at last accepted the resignation of the Municipal Commissioners. But the Lieutenant-Governor has ordered the District Magistrate to withdraw his strictures against the Commissioners, and has requested the Commissioners to withdraw their resignation. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has within a very short time won the regard of the people by giving signal proofs of his uprightness and impartiality.

HITAISHI,
Jan. 28th, 1896.

31. The *Hitaishi* of the 28th January observes that Mr. C. C. Stevens,

The Chairmanship of the Calcutta Municipality.

Senior Member, Board of Revenue, who is soon going to retire, ought to be appointed Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality. The writer disapproves

of the proposal of the Bengal Government recommending the appointment of Mr. Williams at a higher pay than what the present incumbent is drawing. By appointing Mr. Stevens the Calcutta Municipality will secure the services of an able man at the existing pay.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

32. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 23rd January says that the indebted-

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 23rd, 1896.

The land settlement in the North-Western Provinces.

ness and consequent depression of the cultivators, the construction of canals, and the deficiency of manure caused by the exportation of bones and the cutting down of forest trees are variously assigned as the causes of the decrease in agricultural outturn in the North-Western Provinces. But the real cause of this decrease is that as there is no permanent settlement in those provinces, both zamindars and raiyats fear to improve their lands lest a larger revenue should be demanded. Government is therefore requested to make in those provinces a permanent settlement or at any rate a settlement for 60 years.

33. The *Bangavasi* of the 25th January observes that the system of

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 25th, 1896.

Payment of rent by money-order.

paying rent by money-order is not always an unmixed blessing to the raiyat. It is calculated to widen the gulf between him and his zamindar, and he is not, under the operation of this system, always in a position to get full and clear accounts of the monetary transactions between himself and his zamindar. It is not, therefore, strange that the raiyats of the Patna Division should be unwilling to pay rent by money-order. In cases where there is a difference or quarrel between the zamindar and the raiyat, the system does very well; in other cases it is not likely to bear good fruit.

(g)—Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.

34. The Burdwan District Board, observes the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Jan. 21st, 1896.

Village roads in Burdwan.

21st January, has set apart only Rs. 5,000 for the repair and construction of village roads, and out of this amount it has made a grant of Rs. 2,000 to the Sadar Local Board for the purpose of keeping the village roads in order. There are eight thanas under the jurisdiction of the Sadar Local Board, and the sum of Rs. 2,000 will be exceedingly small for the purpose of keeping all the village roads in these eight thanas in repair. It is, moreover, understood that the money set apart ostensibly for the purpose of repairing and constructing village roads will henceforth be devoted to the construction of feeder roads. There cannot, of course, be any objection to the construction of feeder roads, provided village roads are not neglected. If feeder roads are useful, village roads are much more so. People must have village roads first and feeder roads next. Feeder roads cannot by any stretch of reasoning be called village roads. They are roads leading to villages, and not roads in the villages. It is not therefore quite proper to devote to the making of feeder roads money meant for the repair and construction of village roads. How many feeder roads, moreover, one may ask, are likely to be constructed with Rs. 2,000 a year? Not more than four or five to be sure. But with the same amount many village roads could be constructed and repaired. The District Board should construct village as well as feeder roads. But it should attend to village roads first and feeder roads next.

35. The same paper objects to the promise made by the Burdwan District

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

The Burdwan District Board and the proposed steam tramway to Katwa.

Board to pay to the East Indian Railway Company Rs. 10,000 a year for a certain period for the construction of a steam tramway from Burdwan to Katwa. Sometime ago the Burdwan District Board announced that it was prepared to help any party willing to construct a tramway from Burdwan to Katwa by handing over to it the district road between these two towns, and also by making a yearly grant of money. The East Indian Railway Company is going to construct a tramway from Burdwan to Katwa and then from Katwa to Hooghly on its own account. It is not willing to utilise the district road for this purpose, but will make its own road; and the Burdwan District Board has not, under these circumstances, done well to give it, its undertaking

about a fixed amount of money every year. The East Indian Railway Company has not accepted the terms of the Board, and is going to construct the tramway wholly on its own account. It is not, therefore, entitled to any help from the District Board which will now have to maintain the district road over and above making a yearly grant of Rs.10,000 to the East Indian Railway Company. The Burdwan District Board can ill afford to spare Rs. 10,000 a year, and it will therefore do well to reconsider its proposal.

(h)—General.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Jan. 20th, 1896.

36. Instead of supporting the proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam, the *Dacca Gazette* of the 20th January suggests the annexation of Assam to Bengal and the placing of the province which will be thus constituted, under a Governor. The area of Bengal would then be 206,300 square miles, and its population 71,573,000. If this area and this population are considered too large for one ruler, let Orissa and Bihar, whose residents do not speak Bengali and do not like to be called Bengalis, be detached from Bengal, the former being amalgamated with the Madras Presidency and the latter with the North-Western Provinces. Such a re-adjustment would be beneficial both to Assam and to Bengal, whilst it would not injure the interest of either Orissa or Bihar.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 25th, 1896.

The raising of the pay of the Postmaster-General.

37. The *Sanjivani* of the 25th January takes exception to the recent arrangement made by the Secretary of State, raising the pay of one of the two Postmasters-General in India from Rs. 1,750 rising to Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,250 rising to Rs. 2,500 a month. Perhaps the fortunate individual who will reap the benefit of the new arrangement is Mr. Kish. No one will object to Mr. Kisch's elevation, if he be a really competent man. Let him be promoted to a higher post if you like, but why in this way raise the pay of posts monopolised by Europeans at a time when the Government is suffering from a chronic want of means to make its two ends meet? It also passes one's comprehension how the Government, which pleads want of money when it is asked to promote a native official or to increase his pay, can be so very liberal when it is asked to increase the pay of a European official. It is this partiality to Europeans that is gradually shaking the confidence of the people in the justice of the British rule.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 27th, 1896.

The Bengal Administration Report.

38. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 27th January observes that the account of vernacular newspapers given in the Bengal Administration Report for 1894-95 is the most misleading. It is not borne out by facts and it is not at all advisable that such a false and baseless account of vernacular newspapers should find a place in the official report. Are the other portions of the Administration Report equally defective and misleading?

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

BANGANIVASI,
Jan. 26th, 1896.

The Indian Registration Act Amendment Bill.

39. The *Banganivasi* of the 26th January comments on sections 2 and 3 of the Indian Registration Act Amendment Bill:—
The arguments in the first paragraph of the Statement of Objects and Reasons in justification of section 2 of the Indian Registration Act Amendment Bill are sound. Under the existing Act a person has to present himself at the registration office at the place where the property is situated in order to have a document registered. Suppose A lives in Bombay and wishes to sell his Calcutta property to B. The existing law will oblige him to come to Calcutta in order to get the document transferring the property registered. This must be a great hardship to A. The proposed amendment will remove this difficulty as it provides for the registration of a document by a person at the place where he, for the time being, resides. Such a provision will remove a fruitful source of expense, trouble and inconvenience to persons intending to have documents registered.

The second section of the Bill is not, however, equally unobjectionable, and the reasons urged in its justification are not very strong. This section proposes to reduce the extent of the period for registration and requires the immediate

registration of a document. This will prove inconvenient to persons who have to get documents registered, especially to those who are in service and have very little leisure. It is not through idleness but through want of leisure and convenience that people generally make delay in getting documents registered. The extent of the period for registration should not, therefore, be reduced.

40. The Government, observes the *Darsak* of the 26th January, is going to levy a duty on cotton goods of all kinds without any distinction of counts. This will enable the Government to levy the duty most easily, and at the same time to please the Lancashire mill-owners. The Bombay mill-owners, it is true, have raised an alarm and are strongly protesting against the proposed measure, but they will not be heard.

The proposed measure will bring about a loss of revenue amounting to fifty lakhs of rupees. The Finance Member said that as the financial condition of the Government had somewhat improved, it could afford to relieve the people of a portion of their burden of taxation—as if in reducing the duty on cotton goods the Government had nothing but the people's welfare in its mind, as if Manchester agitation and wire-pulling had nothing to do with the introduction of the proposed measure. Unhappily, however, the Indian people are not accustomed to such generosity on the part of Government, and they hesitate to believe that in proposing a reduction of the cotton duties the Government has been actuated by sympathy with the people, pure and unadulterated. It does not require uncommon intellectual power to see that the cotton duties are going to be reduced simply to humour the Lancashire mill-owners, and the Government need not make a pretence of generosity in order to delude the Indian people. Let Sir James Westland say what he may, the financial condition of the Government has not certainly improved so much as to enable it to give up a revenue of fifty lakhs of rupees without feeling any inconvenience for the loss.

41. The Select Committee, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 26th January, have been instructed to submit their report on the Cotton Duties and Tariff Acts Amendment Bills within a week. The Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu asked for a fortnight's time to consider the Bills, but his prayer was not granted. Lancashire must be pacified at any cost, and the sooner it is pacified the better. The Anglo-Indian merchants and mill-owners have entered a strong protest against the Bills, but they will not be heard. When it is a question between Indians and Anglo-Indians, it is the latter who win, but when it is a question between Anglo-Indians and Englishmen, the former must go to the wall. By the new Bills it is proposed to raise the excise on Indian cotton goods by 150 per cent. and to reduce the import duty on foreign cotton goods by 30 per cent. The Indian public strongly object to this arrangement, but their objection is sure not to be heard. Lancashire will triumph.

42. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 27th January writes as follows on the Cotton Duties and Tariff Acts Amendment Bills:—

The Cotton Duties and Tariff Acts Amendment Bills.

The Cotton Duties and Tariff Acts Amendment Bills are likely to give the Indian handlooms an advantage—small though it be—over powerlooms in India and Europe. This advantage, however, will not be very great, and it will not certainly enable handlooms to compete successfully with powerlooms. For the latter will, even after paying a duty of three *per cent.* and-a-half, undersell the former. Moreover, powerlooms turn out finer products than handlooms, and so they will be able to hold their own in the market as successfully as they have hitherto done. The only advantage, therefore, that will be reaped by the Indian handlooms under the new arrangement is that they will be able to sell their products cheaper by three *per cent.* and-a-half. If this increases the demand for hand-made piece-goods it will correspondingly increase the demand for machine-made yarn, and any loss that may be sustained by powerlooms will thus be compensated for. The owners of powerlooms need not, therefore, be very much dissatisfied with the new arrangement.

As for us, we do not object to the new arrangement. If a cotton duty must be levied, it should be levied not upon cotton yarn, but upon cotton goods.

DARSAN,
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DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 26th, 1896.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 27th, 1896.

And as some concession must be made to Lancashire, the way in which concession is going to be made is the least objectionable under the existing circumstances. It is impossible to levy any duty on handlooms in India, and that being the case, even Lancashire should not grumble at a small advantage scored by these looms. For the sake of the latter, if not for anything else, we approve of the measure.

But how long will the new arrangement last. It will not satisfy Lancashire. When you have once humoured her you must humour her to the top of her bent. Lancashire has scored her point and she will now demand a wholesale abolition of the duty on her cotton goods. The Government of India will have to yield to her sooner or later; for the Home Government is a tool in her hands, and the Government of India must serve the Home Government like a slave.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

43. The *Sanjivani* of the 25th January has the following:—

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 25th, 1896.

Suicide by a Native Chief.

Ramchandra Singh Deo was the Chief of Patna, a native State in the Central Provinces. He was a young man, well educated and full of enthusiasm and activity—the very picture of cheerfulness and contentment. In 1894, Ramchandra attained his majority and was invested with the powers of government. He had not assumed the reins of Government long when he came to realize what his situation was. He found out that he was not master in his own dominion, but a slave to the Political Agent—that he had along with his territory inherited the bondage of life-long slavery. In one year he became tired of his life, and one fine morning, in an unusual hour, he sought the presence of his wife, whom he dearly loved. They had a daughter, the only child that was born to them, and they loved her better than their own lives. They bade a maid-servant to bring her to them, and then the young chief related to his wife the whole story of his misery and suffering. “Is not death,” he asked, “more desirable than this miserable existence? Come, let us leave this cursed world. Let us seek shelter in death.” The Maharani consented to die, but, pointing to their daughter, “she will become helpless” she said; “there will be none to look after her if we die.” “God will protect her,” answered the valiant Chief.

“Maharani,” said the Maharaja, “take this revolver, shoot me, and then shoot yourself. We must die together.”

“I am a Rajput girl,” replied the Maharani, “and I know how to handle a revolver. But what an order this that you make! This hand was made to serve and not to kill you.”

Then they, the Maharaja and the Maharani, looked at each other. That was their parting look. The Maharaja took up the revolver, but his hand shook—the hand which never before had lost its balance in *shikar*. The revolver was fired, but the bullet missed its mark; it only scratched the Maharani’s hand.

“What is this you have done” exclaimed the Maharani in surprise.

Then the Maharaja took his aim, his fatal aim, at the heart of the Maharani. Off went the bullet and the Maharani fell dead on the spot. The Maharaja placed the dead body on a bed, took his seat by its side, held the revolver against his heart, and fired. He was now a corpse on the bed.

The question is, why was Maharaja Ramchandra Deo, in the prime of his life, so much tired of the world? He had begun life well. He had received a liberal education and had commenced to rule his people with all his heart and with the enthusiasm of youth. What was it that poisoned his life and made him quit this world as one would avoid the touch of a cursed thing?

The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has published two letters from the Maharaja which would melt the most obdurate heart to tears. These letters convince us that it was the ill-treatment of the Political Agent that made his life a burden to the Maharaja—a burden which he was impelled to shake off as soon as he could. In one of his letters the Maharaja thus complains of the conduct of the Political Agent:—

“The Political Agent is keeping inimical terms with me up to date. Being insisted by the Local Government, I apologised to him and thought the matter had ended there. But no, many things are going on, so there is a

perfect reign of terror—more and more trouble, and humiliation for me to a greater extent, and I am left unheard. I do not see any way how I can please him. I try my utmost from my heart, but he has a very powerful hand over me on account of his being a representative of the paramount power. I am perfectly an eye-sore to him. He always goads and rakes up the quarrel. Whenever an opportunity comes, he tries to find fault with me just as if I am his private servant or slave. He always proceeds with his proceedings very illegally and indignantly. I have put up patiently since a long time, but I should no longer bear his over-bearing conduct lest he might ruin me. If I go to make any representation of grievances, he calls me fool, stupid, devil and much worse things. I got this treatment at Raipur, where I lately was invited to witness the opening of the R. K. College. The Political Agent always tries to foment a friction between me and my Dewan, so that he shall have an opportunity to show me up to the Government. He is the sole cause of the the last unpleasantness of the Patna State, otherwise there would have been nothing. He charged me with showing disrespect to him in several ways, and came to the conclusion that I should ask his apology. . . After having been subjected to great trouble and remaining in unsettled mind for a long time, of which there is a documentary statement, I was obliged to leave my home to a distance of more than two hundred miles in the middle part of May. After the apology had been offered he had not at all any sympathy for me, as I have been told. My powers have been curtailed, and curtailment of power seems nothing but a mere play in the hands of the Political Agent. In other words, he makes me an indirect slave, and he has always his eyes fixed upon me, so that I cannot move hither and thither without his permission. My interview with him is followed by remarks of contempt and censure, on almost all occasions, and especially at his private office room before his chaprasi.

"The Political Agent invited me to come and witness the opening of the R. K. College at Raipur, and I accordingly went there and obeyed his order. I did not know what had occurred there between him and the Chief Commissioner. Perhaps the former had been reprimanded by His Honour. The Chief is no doubt a good judge, and every way the most praiseworthy and fittest officer. His Honour scolded the Political Agent on the railway platform. The public are aware of this. The Political Agent shows more and more grudge against me than before.

"When the Chief Commissioner left the place, he (the P. A.) called me to his private office house and dealt with me so severely that I was obliged to quit the place in a bewildered manner. His chaprasi was also bullying me all the while. I did not say anything to the Commissioner, for I knew they were one, and there would be nothing.

"Please remove me from such difficulties that I may freely come down to Calcutta to settle down there.

"My spirit, self-respect and authority are gone now, and shame and ruin wait for me.

"My mind is so much vexed! Now what shall I do? No one to hear my request!"

In another letter the Maharaja thus bewails his lot:—

".....In days gone by I was a merry fellow, but now I always remain in terror for fear of oppression. It is a most surprising thing that the Government or the Empress of India is none to us, and that we are simply to be guided by the Political Agent and Dewan. Nor have we any voice in the government, whatsoever our grievances are. Had this been known to me I would not have willingly accepted this sort of installation with full powers in January 1894. We are not allowed to enjoy the privileges which our forefathers enjoyed, and are being day by day crushed down by official tyranny and oppression unheard. This is not a grievance of this State simply, but almost of all the States of Chutisgurh. We are quite helpless to move in the matter, for we know there would be a great uproar among the official circle.

"I hereby appeal to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council to hear my grievances and save me from high-handed and tyrannical treatment, and to order for a commission of enquiry about the income of my State during their 21 years of administration. Besides how they (the politicals) have changed the feeling of the State officials and subjects by their rule.

More properly speaking, many of them are quite disloyal and disrespectful to us, the Chief of the State having had no power even to dismiss or to appoint an official and do many things of the like nature. All the treasury are in the hands of others. The Chief has to live upon his poor monthly salary from the State."

These letters do not leave the least shadow of a doubt in our mind that it was the oppression by the Political Agent that led the Maharaja to commit suicide. The Government should make an inquiry into the charges which are levelled against the Political Agent of Chatisgarh, in the Maharaja's letters published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*.

SULABH DAINIK,
Jan. 28th, 1896.

44. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 28th January says that Captain Gordon, Political Agent in Jhalwar, Rajputana, has made out a case for the deposition of the Raja of the State, though only a very short time ago he was on cordial terms with His Highness. The charges which have been made against the Raja are as follows:—

- (1) The Raja is hostile to the British Government and is making preparations for a war against it.
- (2) He has abstracted some lakhs of rupees from his State treasury.
- (3) He fined a muharrir rupees two without the Political Agent's consent.

The first charge cannot be believed to be true except on the supposition that the Raja has gone mad. The Raja's force consists of a hundred untrained men, most insufficiently equipped. Could any mortal believe that with such and no better resources the Raja really meant to make war upon the British Government?

The writer fails to see how the Raja can be blamed for taking out money from his own treasury, when the Government has vested him with absolute power in the administration of his State. Still, the Raja would have been to blame if he had taken out the money for the purpose of making, as Captain Gordon seems to suppose he did, war preparations against the Sovereign power. But nothing of the kind: the Raja's wife is in the family way, and the Raja wanted the money for the purpose of performing certain ceremonies which had to be observed on that account. Will native princes be next required to obtain the Political Agent's permission before visiting their wives?

The third charge is the most frivolous and provoking of the three. If the Raja fined a muharrir, what of that? Has not a native prince in India the power to fine even his own muharrir without the Political Agent's permission? It is shameful for an officer in Captain Gordon's position to feel no scruple in making use of such paltry devices for the purpose of humiliating a prince. It would be better for the Raja to be deposed than to live a life of such humiliation under a Political Agent like Captain Gordon. Even compassion, a feeling not unknown among wild beasts, is not to be expected from such a Political Agent.

But it is hoped that Lord Elgin, to whom the Raja has appealed, will spare him. His Excellency should instruct Political Agents not to be on the lookout for shortcomings in the native princes, but to devote their whole energy to the improvement of their States, in which there is still much to reform and improve.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 29th, 1896.

45. The *Dainik o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 29th January has the following:—

Jhalwar.

Affairs in Jhalwar have reached a crisis. The young Maharana has incurred the displeasure of the Political Agent, and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that there is internal dissension in the State, which is likely to accomplish its ruin. Some of the nearest relations of the Maharana have turned against him, and finding the Political Agent against him, have gone over to his side and are now laying serious charges at his door. The Political Agent on his part is doing every thing in his power to help the Maharana's enemies, and has charged him with attempting a rebellion against the British Government. It is alleged that the Maharana issued more than the usual rounds of cartridges to his soldiers, and armed a number of pathans clearly with a view to use force against the Political Agent. A British regiment has been quartered in Jhalwar ostensibly with the object of putting down any armed rebellion which the turbulent chief may at any moment excite.

That the chief of a small and insignificant native state should try to raise the standard of rebellion against the powerful British Government is something ridiculous in the extreme. No sane man can believe it, and if any other person than a Political Agent had brought this charge against Zalim Singh, he would certainly have been sent to a lunatic asylum. But Political Agents can say anything and everything, and whatever they say finds credence with the Foreign Office. Lord Northbrook well knew that diamond dust could not kill a man, and yet Malhar Rao was deposed on the ground that he had administered diamond dust to the Resident with a view to kill him. What could be done in Baroda can also be done in Jhalwar. It is, however, a fact that Zalim Singh is an educated young native chief. He knows English well, and has always been on good terms with the predecessors of the present Political Agent, Captain Gordon.

The *Pioneer* is a sworn enemy of the native States, and it is not at all strange that it should be inimically disposed towards the ruler of Jhalwar. That paper has been so far blinded by malice and vindictiveness that it cannot even distinguish between what is possible and what is not in the nature of things, and it goes so far as to believe the charge of rebellion which has been preferred against the Maharana. Ridiculous as that charge is, the Foreign Office appears to have given it very great significance, and has with great solemnity demanded an explanation from the Chief of Jhalwar—an explanation, forsooth, as to why he armed his soldiers and issued to them more than the usual rounds of cartridges?

This is the *Pioneer's* version of the state of things in Jhalwar. Its special pleading on behalf of the Political Agent, however, will do injury not only to the Maharana, but also to the British Government, by creating discontent, alarm, and a sense of insecurity in the mind of the native chiefs of India. But the *Pioneer* knows how to put on the appearance of justice and says that the Jhalwar Chief should be dealt with in a manner which will not give the native chiefs cause to question the justice and impartiality of the British Government. It is, however, very easy to conjecture what will be the treatment meted out to the Jhalwar Chief. His explanation will be considered by the Foreign Office in the usual official fashion, an official resolution will be issued, criticising and examining it at full length, and the resolution will most probably be followed by his deposition. The *Pioneer* will then find its object gained.

The *Pioneer* says that Zalim Singh was not, on his accession to the throne, invested with full powers on the ground of his incapacity, and that full powers were given to him only very recently. This shows that the Jhalwar Chief proved his ability before he was invested with full power. It also shows that he won the confidence of the Government. It is, therefore, almost incredible that a man who only a short time ago proved an able and faithful vassal, should at once so far change as to attempt a rebellion against the paramount power. Political Agents and the Political-ridden Foreign Office can believe the charge brought against the Maharana of Jhalwar: it cannot find credence with the Indian public or with impartial Englishmen.

It is a misfortune that at this critical moment Lord Elgin has been laid up with illness. The Foreign Office does not care for any body in the world. It can make light appear as darkness and darkness appear as light. It can even prove the existence of what does not exist. Now that the Viceroy, the head of the Foreign Office, is ill, it will carry things with a high hand. There is danger in store for Jhalwar, and, who shall say, not also for a few other native states? Parliament too, is closed, and the *Pioneer's* special pleading is most opportune.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

46. A correspondent of the *Sahachar* of the 22nd January complains that though the income of Mahanta of Tarakeswar from his zamindari and from the offerings of the pilgrims amounts to about a lakh of rupees a year, and only thirty or forty thousand rupees out of this sum is annually spent on the maintenance of the shrine, not a cowry of the surplus is expended in making arrangements for the comfort and convenience of pilgrims, but the whole of it is hoarded. It is to be hoped that with his hoarded many, the Mohant will cause

The Tarakeswar Mohant's use of the temple money.

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 22nd, 1896.

(1) a tank to be excavated for the use of the pilgrims, with separate masonry ghats for male and female pilgrims, (2) separate rows of privies to be constructed for the use of the two classes of pilgrims, each row consisting of not less than fifty compartments, and constructed on the plan on which privies in large railway stations are constructed, and (3) temporary sheds to be erected for the use of pilgrims on the occasion of the Sivaratri and hook-swinging festivals.

SULABH DAINIK,
Jan. 23rd, 1896.

47. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 23rd January says that in July 1889, when Sir Alexander Mackenzie was going to England on leave on board the P. & O. Company's steamer *Coromandal*, he met among his fellow-passengers a Bengali gentleman whom he accosted in Bengali and asked his name. The Bengali gentleman told him his name and asked who he was. Sir Alexander replied:—"My name is Alexander Mackenzie; I am the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, and am trying to become the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. It is long since I had an opportunity of speaking in Bengali, and am very much pleased and delighted to have an opportunity of speaking in that tongue with you." The same Alexander Mackenzie is now the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. If he can look to the well-being of the Bengalis, whom he loves so much, during his occupation of the Bengal *musnud*, they will for ever cherish his memory in the inmost recess of their hearts.

SULABH DAINIK,
Jan. 24th, 1896.

48. Sir Antony MacDonnell, says the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 24th January, earned the gratitude of the Bengalis within the short period of six months during which he officiated as their Lieutenant-Governor. He has now been Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces for four months only, and within this short time he has mixed with his rich and poor subjects without distinction. All ill-feeling between the rulers and the ruled will disappear if all officials follow Sir Antony's example.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Jan. 24th, 1896.

49. Referring to Mr. Wilson's article in the *Investor's Review* on the subject of India's poverty, the *Education Gazette* of the 24th January writes as follows:—

A perusal of this article may lead many to take Mr. Wilson for a visionary and a pessimist. But thoughtful men will find it difficult to deny that India is just now suffering from the acutest poverty, and that her condition will drift from bad to worse day after day.

But if India is really in such distress, what is to be done to improve her condition? Many people will advise the Indians to take with greater assiduity to the pursuit of wealth, and devote their whole energy to commercial pursuits as the best means of acquiring it. Now, here and there an Indian may, indeed, be found taking to commercial pursuits; but unfortunately he does not meet with the desired success. The cause of the Indian's failure in such pursuits has hitherto been that in these days of keen commercial competition he cannot, with his poor capital, fight with rich European merchants. If the people of India wish to be successful in commerce and hold their own against European merchant princes, they must start joint-stock companies. Not that such companies have not already been tried in this country, but unfortunately through the fault of their framers they have invariably failed. Some people attribute the failure to want of enterprise and active business habits in the natives. That it is also due to selfishness and want of patriotism admits of no doubt. So long, therefore, as the people of India will not acquire habits of self-respect and self-sacrifice, and will not learn to trust each other, so long will joint-stock companies fail among them, with this result that while some people will writhe in poverty, a few more fortunate will either bury their riches under ground or invest them in Government securities.

HITA ADI,
Jan. 24th, 1896.

50. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th January gives the following description of Babu Surendra Nath Banerji's reception in Calcutta:—

Babu Surendra Nath's reception
in Calcutta.

On Tuesday morning, the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji returned to Calcutta by the Eastern Bengal Railway line across the Jubilee Bridge. The Sealdah station pavilion, which had been decorated with leaves, flowers and flags, wore quite a festive appearance. From an early hour in the morning people began to gather, and as the day advanced the crowd swelled till at last it seemed as if the station would not be able to

hold any more. The officers of the Railway become uneasy and did not venture to bring the train up to the platform. The extraordinary scene presented by the packed pavilion at that moment can be conceived by none but those who witnessed it.

People of every rank in life gathered to welcome Surendra Nath back from Poona. The train came long after the appointed time. Seeing the crowd, the railway authorities stopped the train at a distance from the platform and sent a pilot engine to bring only the carriage in which Babu Surendra Nath was to the northern end of the platform. Surendra Babu was made to alight there. Instantly the whole station resounded with cheers. The crowds outside had not yet come to know that Babu Surendra Nath had arrived. As soon as they came to know this, they began to cheer vociferously and blow conches. It was now all jostle and bustle and pushing and squeezing. The eagerness of the assembled people to see Surendra Nath was such that it seemed as if they had never seen him before. Everybody strove to catch the first glimpse of Surendra Nath. Indeed, many had their dresses disordered in the press, and Raja Binay Krishna actually fainted away.

Surendra Babu was then taken to a carriage. Standing upon it, he shortly addressed the assembled gentlemen as follows:—"I thank you for your courtesy. I know well that this honour is not a tribute paid to me personally, but to the great cause of the National Assembly." As soon as he had finished speaking, the young men in the crowd unyoked the horses and began to draw the carriage themselves. The carriage was drawn along the street in the direction of the Ripon College, and the air resounded with cheers.

Three triumphal arches had been erected on the street. The musicians stationed on those arches now began to play on their instruments. The bunting and garlands on the two sides of the street greatly added to its beauty. At intervals there were inscriptions in white letters on red cloth; such as "Calcutta welcomes the Hon'ble Surendra Nath Banerji"; "Long live Surendra Nath, the worthy son of India." In this triumphant manner Babu Surendra Nath was led to the quadrangle of the Ripon College.

Nobody, after Lord Ripon, has met with such a reception in Calcutta. It is a regret that Sir Charles Elliott did not witness this scene before he went away.

The Commissioner of the Calcutta Police, the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, and the railway authorities deserve thanks for the generous manner in which they helped this demonstration. Many leading citizens of Calcutta assembled to do honour to Babu Surendra Nath. For want of room at the station many of them had to remain standing on the street. Among the gentlemen present we will mention the following:—

Mr. Monmohan Ghosh, the Hon'ble Shiraj-ul-Islam, Babu Charu Chandra Mitra, Kumar Prabhatchandra of Gauripur, Raja Binay Krishna, the Hon'ble Rao Sahib B. G. Bhuskate, Babu Narendranath Sen, Babu Surendra Nath Pal Chaudhari, Rai Krishna Chandra Roy Bahadur, Rai Ram Sankar Sen Bahadur, Babu Asutosh Biswas, Doctor Fernandez, Mr. B. D. Bose, Mr. Shelley Bonnerji, Mr. D. E. Cranenburgh, Dr. Nilratan Sarkar, Babu Hirendra Nath Datta, Babu Jyotirindra Nath Tagore, Babu Sitanath Roy, Babu Devendra Chandra Ghosh, Babu Nalinbihari Sarkar, Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose, Babu Jogendra Nath, Bose, Babu Satis Chandra Ghosh, Kaviraj Upendra Nath Sen, Mr. P. N. Mitter, Babu Heramba Chandra Maitra, Babu Umesh Chandra Datta, Babu Dwarka Nath Ganguli, Babu Krishna Kumar Mitra, Babu Amrita Chandra Ghosh, Babu Lalbihari Basak, Babu Pratap Chandra Majumdar, Babu Kali Charan Banerji, Babu Nagendra Nath Ghosh, Babu Jay Gobinda Some, Babu Jadu Nath Ghosh, Babu Bhaba Nath Banerji, Babu Bhut Nath Mukharji, Babu Priya Nath Mallik. There were also Government officers there to welcome Babu Surendra Nath.

51. The same paper says that on the occasion of his late visit to Diamond Harbour, Mr. Pratt, the District Judge of the 24-Parganas, requested the local munsifs and amla to insure their lives and even undertook to advance for them their first premium as a loan. This was very kind of him, and there was nothing to object to in it. But he immediately afterwards sent a European friend of his, who is an agent to the New York Life Insurance Company, to the

HITAVADI,
JAN. 24th, 1896.

Mr. Pratt, District Judge of Alipore, as an advocate of life insurance.

place to help those officers in ensuring their lives. This was rather objectionable, as it might compel even those subordinates of the District Judge who might not have been inclined to insure their lives to effect an insurance, and those who might not have much faith in the above Insurance Company to insure their lives with it against their wish.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 24th, 1896.

52. The same paper says that it is high time that the oppression which is committed by *mohants* and *pandas* at places of pilgrimage was put a stop to. Here is a letter from a correspondent complaining of such oppression:—

"Last year on the occasion of the full moon, in the month of Chaitra, we, a party numbering 33, undertook a journey of four days with a view to visit Sita Kunda. On our arrival we went to bathe in the Barak Kunda, but a mohant named Ram Chandra Bharati stopped us and said, "you are hill *mags* and must pay a rupee each before you are permitted to bathe in the *Kunda*." Many people from our part of the country were permitted to bathe on payment of a fee of two pice. We offered to pay four annas, but the *mahant* was relentless. We had therefore to return with heavy hearts after four days' journey.

We then went to see Chandra Nath. The mahant sent for us. At first three of our party went to him, but he said that every one of us must appear before him. We all then went to him. He asked for money. We paid him three rupees, which he refused to accept, saying that every one of us must pay a rupee. After much entreaty he yielded so far as to accept five rupees from us. We then received a written permission to visit the temple. As a good deal of time was wasted in these negotiations, night set in before we could reach the shrine. We had therefore to spend the night at that place, which is rendered dreadful by wild animals.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 25th, 1896.

53. The *Bangavasi* of the 25th January observes that zanana missionaries are gradually finding their way to Indian villages. They are disturbing the peace of many a peasant home, and trying to proselytise the illiterate wives of the Indian agriculturists. The zanana missionaries being European ladies, the common people do not venture to oppose them, but let them have free access to their zanana. But if proselytisation goes on at a rapid rate among the women of the Indian peasantry, it will most likely create a consternation among the people, and will give rise to a widespread discontent in the public mind, the brunt of which will have to be met by the Government. The Government should not therefore be blinded by its love of Christian missionaries, and should take some steps to prevent any discontent being created among the masses of the Indian people by the proselytising zeal of the zanana mission.

BANGAVASI.

54. The Viceroy, observes the same paper, is suffering from fever of a malarious type. Some say that this may lead the Government to do something to check the prevalence of malaria in this country. They are sadly mistaken. They should thank their stars if the seat of Government is not permanently transferred from Calcutta to Simla on this account. An excuse was so long wanting to do this, and an excuse has now been found.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 25th, 1896.

55. The *Sanjivani* of the 25th January complains that the Indian Steam Navigation Company charges very high fares upon passengers bound for Penang and Singapore in the Straits Settlements. A deck passenger from Calcutta to Singapur has to pay Rs. 25 and to find his own food, while a passenger from Singapur to Hongkong has to pay only Rs. 10, and gets his food from the Company. The distance from Singapur to Hongkong is greater than that from Calcutta to Singapur. Why then such difference? Is it because a passenger from Calcutta to Singapur is generally a native of India, while a passenger from Singapur to Hongkong is a Chinaman, who, unlike the Indian, belongs to a free country? The result of this difference is that Indians are prevented from emigrating to the Straits Settlements, while Chinamen are given every facility to establish colonies there. The labour market there is almost monopolised by Chinamen, while the people of the congested districts of Bengal have no chance of bettering their condition by migrating to those places.

But this is not all. In the Straits Settlements Chinamen are allowed to monopolise almost all the high posts in the public service, while better educated Indians find it hard to hold their own against them. Chinamen in the lower grades of the public service in the Straits Settlements eke out their income by gambling. They have sometimes been known to have embezzled public money and then to have taken shelter in their native country, where the arm of the British law is not long enough to reach them. How long will this state of things continue? Are Chinamen better than Indians in the eye of the British Government?

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 1st February 1896.

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